



WINE AND SPIRITS WHOLESALERS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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**Testimony of the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of Connecticut, Inc.
on
HB 5226. AAC Qualified Alcohol Servers**

The Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of Connecticut, Inc. and its member companies are strong proponents of the education and training of bartenders, waitress and waiters. That is why the WSWC and its member companies have committed to provide TIPS® training, free of charge, to any establishment in Connecticut.

TIPS (Training for Intervention ProcedureS) is the global leader in education and training for the responsible service, sale, and consumption of alcohol. Proven effective by third-party studies, TIPS is a skills-based, alcohol training and certification program that is designed to prevent intoxication, underage drinking, and drunk driving by enhancing the fundamental "people skills" of servers, sellers and consumers of alcohol.

In addition to devoting its own resources, the WSWC has teamed up with seven Region Action Councils (these are public regional social service agencies) to provide even more capacity to provide training sessions free of charge. The WSWC provided grants to train seven staff of the RACs throughout the state who in turn have committed to donate their time to provide free TIPS trainings. The WSWC will provide the course materials for these training sessions.

As a result of our efforts, the WSWC and its member companies have, in the last two years, trained in excess of 1200 servers. Our goal is to train 5% of the servers in Connecticut each year. The WSWC is not the only provider of this type of training, as there is currently in excess of **9,000 Connecticut servers who are currently certified** through TIPS. This number does not take into account those servers who are certified through ServeSafe (the main competitor to TIPS) or any other organization.

What is important to note is that all of this was done on a voluntary basis.

Why? Because Connecticut's restaurants, cafes and bars recognize the benefits of well trained servers. They provide better, more professional service to the customer and the establishment sees direct financial benefits in the form of lower insurance costs.

**To schedule a free training session please contact:
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